

Project Update: January 2024

Project activities conducted between November 2023 and January 2024

a. Permit processing, project launching and field surveying

The team travelled to Zanzibar on 18th November 2023 and immediately started to process the permit. While waiting for the permit to commence actual project activities, the team visited various tree nurseries to select and purchase seedlings ready for Phase I planting activity (**Fig. 1 - 4**). The office of the Second Vice President and the Department of Forestry, Zanzibar approved the permit on 23rd November 2023 and the team immediately started to implement the project activities as per our schedule. The team then met with members of the local community as well as forestry department officers where we discussed the project activities and the overall implementation (**Fig. 5 - 8**). During our meetings, the team informed well the participants about current conservation activities linking them with what have been done by our previous project in effort to rescue the population of Zanzibar red colobus monkeys (*Ptilocolobus kirkii*) and their habitats in the project area.



Figures 1 - 4: Sampling and assortment of tree seedlings for restoration activity.



Figures 5 – 8: The project team visiting potential stakeholders to discuss about implementation of the project.

b. Trees planting (Phase I) at Vundwe and Uzi islands

The team collected and transported seedlings of various tree species including *Sorindeia madagascarensis* (Pilipili doria), *Terminalia boivinii* (Mkunguni), *Diospyros consolatae* (Mkukuru), *Suregada zanzibariensis* (Mdimu msitu), *Macphersonia gracilis* (Mjoma) and *Clausena anisata* (Mfusho) to project sites for planting (**Fig. 9 – 12**). In collaboration with the villagers and forest officers, the team started tree planting activity in already identified areas (**Fig. 13 – 20**). Due to current El Niño conditions, Zanzibar and most areas in Tanzania mainland have received above normal rainfall between October 2023 and January 2024. In these favourable conditions, the project team was able to plant more trees during Phase I while expecting good growth response from the newly planted trees due to adequate rainfall. A total of 1800 tree seedlings were planted between November 2023 and January 2024.



Figures 9 – 12: Transportation of tree seedlings from nurseries to planting sites.





Figures 13 – 20: Project team members and the villagers participating in reforestation of the degraded *P. kirkii* habitats in the project area.

Next move

a. Establishment and training of environmental committees and students' environmental clubs

In February 2024, the project team will facilitate establishment and training of village environmental committees and environmental clubs at both primary and secondary schools in Uzi. This activity aims at ensuring that the community members and students are kept motivated and continue to participate in conservation of *P. kirkii* and their habitat even after the project phase out.

b. Trees planting (Phase II)

The project team will first evaluate the trees planted during Phase I, assess their growth and health, identify challenges that might have affected the growth of some tree seedlings to sapling stage if any. The assessment aims at ensuring that the majority of planted trees reaches maturity stage. The team will replace all dead trees if any and continue with Phase II of planting in the remaining degraded areas. This activity will be conducted between March and May 2024.